

**Minutes of the Carlisle Board of Health
October 2, 2008**

Present: Board Members Jeff Brem (Chairman), Chris Deignan, Bill Risso, and Michael Holland; Absent – Leslie Cahill; also present: Linda Fantasia (Agent), Cecile Sandwen (Carlisle Mosquito)

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the town hall. Brem announced that the meeting was being recorded for the local cable channel.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Senior Flu Clinic – November 7, 10-12. Cost for town employees is \$25.00

MHOA Conference 10/29-30. Fantasia and Caywood will attend. Tuition is paid from grant funding. The office will be closed unless the Board's Senior Worker is available. Fantasia recommended that Board members try to attend. It is a good way to learn about the newest technologies. The vendor exhibits are always well attended. DEP also gives many of the courses. The conference is being held in Worcester.

FY10 BUDGET – Fincom is again looking at a zero growth budget. This will be the third year that there has been no increase in operating funds. Cost of living and step increases will have to be assumed by the operating budget. If there is not enough money, the town may advise reducing hours or staff.

Administrative Assistant Position – Fantasia has been collecting data on comparables for an increase in hours and rate. There may be an outside source of funding for the house through the Septic Loan Program. Both the Board of Health and the Planning Board are seeking an increase in pay rate based on education for the position. Mark Lamere, Planning Board Treasurer, will work with Brem in submitting a proposal to the Personnel Board.

Generator – Public Works has agreed to dig out the new trench. The equipment is being stored at Selectman Carpenito's house. The plan is to have it installed before winter.

Barn Inspections – 104 applications have been mailed. Larry Sorli and Deb Toher will be doing unannounced inspections during October and November. Application fee is \$25.00

BILLS – It was moved (Risso) and seconded (Deignan) to approve the bills as presented. Motion passed 3-0-0. (Holland had not arrived)

MINUTES – next meeting.

Employee Reviews – The Personnel Board has revised the form, which is due 10/15/08. Board members agreed to provide individual comments. Last year Risso and Cahill prepared the final review for the agent. Brem offered to organize the responses. He will check with Risso and Cahill about the final write up.

Annual Goals – The Board reviewed the proposed list. The Board intends to finish revising the Well Regulations. Brem asked if the Water Quality Subcommittee had met. The Board would like to meet with the Subcommittee. The Board is preparing policies, which will be provided to applicants requiring permits. Other priorities will be providing training for the MRC and organizing Neighborhood Networks. There are currently 37 members of the MRC. The Board would like to participate in a local preparedness drill. Part II of the Emergency Dispensing Site training is now available. The Board is interested in continuing this activity. Brem thought "Management and Financial Planning Goals" should be changed to "Customer Service". Fantasia added preparation of a departmental procedures manual and the Board agreed.

Septic Loan Program – Carlisle has been approved under the State Revolving Fund to issue low interest loans to homeowners replacing failed septic systems, which will be paid back through betterments on the property. In order to receive the grant for administering the program, Carlisle needs to approve two loans.

Fantasia has contacted four homeowners who are interested. Two have had their systems installed over the summer, one is close to completion and the fourth needs additional testing for the design. The Board will review the draft application package. One of the homeowners was given the draft package for comments. Larry Barton, Finance Director, has received the financial agreements from the Water Pollution Abatement Trust, which manages the funds. The Selectmen need to borrow the money for disbursement. Fantasia will meet with Barton and the Town Accountant to work out the disbursement procedures.

PERMITS

Spaghetti Supper – The School's Food Service Director will supervise the operation. The menu has been approved.

It was moved (Risso) and seconded (Deignan) to issue a One-Day Temporary Permit for the Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser to be held October 7. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Carlisle Farmstead Cheese – the Board is the local approving authority for the milk pasteurization license. The state's Food Protection Program/Dairy Unit does semi-annual inspections. The Board is copied on the inspection results. No problems were noted.

It was moved (Risso) and seconded (Deignan) to issue an annual Milk Pasteurization License for Carlisle Farmstead Cheese, operated by Tricia Smith and Michael Holland, located at 43 Indian Hill Road. Motion passed 3-0-0.

883 EAST STREET – the owners want to use the existing garbage grinder allowance to accommodate two additional rooms in the house. The existing system has a 660 GPD capacity, including the garbage grinder allowance. The total number of rooms in the house with the addition will be ten, requiring 550 GPD under state and local design flow requirements. The existing capacity is adequate for the addition. A restriction prohibiting the installation of a grinder must be recorded on the property deed for the system to be in compliance.

It was moved (Deignan) and seconded (Risso) to approve a Garbage Grinder Deed Restriction for 883 East Street to be recorded on the property deed.

FERNS COUNTRY STORE – Brem reported that the Selectmen approved the Site Plan and the Historic Commission approved the structural renovations.

EAST MIDDLESEX MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM – David Henley, Superintendent met with the Board to discuss the possibility of joining the program.

Brem introduced Henley to the audience and noted that the presentation was being televised for the local cable channel. Speakers should use the microphones available. Brem then explained that although the town has rejected mosquito control in the past, given the current mosquito situation which not only includes nuisance activity but possibly health risks with WNV and EEE, the Board felt it should investigate whether the town needs and might be interested in funding a mosquito control program. Henley explained that the EMMCP is a regional public agency governed by the State Reclamation Board that provides mosquito control to twenty-five communities. EMMCP consists of one representative from each member community. Five members from this group are chosen as an executive committee. There is an annual administration fee that is charged to each community. Currently the fee is approximately \$5000. Towns then pay 100% of the services requested. Lincoln, Concord, Bedford, Sudbury are some of the nearby towns that participate. EMMCP services include education, monitoring and surveillance, treatment and applications. Each town decides on and pays for its own level of services.

According to Henley, this spring and summer produced more mosquitoes due to excessive rainfall. West Nile Virus, which usually appears between July and October, was present earlier than usual. Carlisle had two birds that tested positive for West Nile Virus as did many other communities. There have been no human

cases identified. Henley then gave a brief summary of the various mosquito species and their breeding habitats. Spring Flood mosquitoes breed during the wet season of April, May and June. These are followed by Summer Flood mosquitoes, which breed in river floodplains such as Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge. There are also species that breed in cedar swamps, and cattails environments, as well as mosquitoes that winter over in containers and structures that remain heated. West Nile Virus is an illness that is transmitted by the Culex mosquito. This species is usually more prevalent in urban areas because it breeds in stagnant pools of water. Carlisle is located close to areas that support and produce heavy mosquito populations and is a prime breeding ground because of its extensive wetlands according to Henley.

A mosquito control program can encompass three aspects: survey and monitoring, larvae treatment, and adult stage mosquito treatment. A program may be designed to include any or all of the three aspects. Wetland surveys and other available data are used to determine locations for larval control. Adult mosquito data is collected through two types of traps: light traps and gravid traps. Light traps collect information on nuisance mosquitoes. Gravid traps collect information on Culex and other container breeding species. The main method of larval control is application of Bti (Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis), a bacterial pesticide. Helicopter application is most effective for treating large wetland areas. Small granules of Bti, similar to corn kernels, are dropped from the helicopter to specific targeted areas. Because of improvements in GIS and wetland databases, the flyovers are able to eliminate gaps in the coverage, thereby maximizing treatment. Aerial applications are usually done in the spring but can be done in summer over low canopy wetlands. Bti has a long and safe history of use and approved by EPA. It is non-toxic to humans and harmless to fish and amphibians. Henley thinks Carlisle would be a good candidate for larvicide applications. Other mosquito control services provided are ditch maintenance and catch basin applications. Since Bti is only effective for about 24 hours, catch basins are treated with Bacillus sphaericus, which provides ongoing treatment from one generation of mosquito to the next as it continues to be digested and released in the water. Ditch maintenance is done using specialized excavators that reduce disturbance to adjacent areas. EMMCP is exempt from the Wetland Protection Act, but always confers with the local Conservation Commission before undertaking work in a wetland. The Board noted that Lyme Disease is also a problem. Henley said the mosquito control program does not work for ticks.

Holland asked about adverse impacts to bees. Henley said Bti is harmless to bees and dragonflies. It can affect some filter feeding insects of the aquatic family, but overall the impacts are negligible, a slight reduction in numbers. Henley emphasized that there are no human impacts. He explained that federal limitations were placed on larviciding in national wildlife refuges such as Great Meadows, but that policy is now being reconsidered because of the overall benefit over adverse impacts. EMMCP treats about 56,000 catch basins over the course of a season. Temporary seasonal helpers, usually students, go around on bikes to place the larvicide briquettes in catch basins. It is possible to reach a 95% control point with this method. The mosquito population will not be eradicated so there will be no long term impacts to species that use mosquitoes as a food source. EMMCP takes into consideration the possibility of resistance and changes the ingredients on a regular basis. Henley would not recommend truck mounted applications in Carlisle due to the limited roadways. Other services that a community can purchase include public education, press releases, acting as a resource, taking calls from residents, providing a website and arranging for speakers as needed. All of the adjacent towns are in the program for which Carlisle is supplying mosquitoes. Lincoln contracts for surveys, monitoring and public education; Concord has a plan in case there is a disease outbreak which includes catch basin treatment but not spraying; Bedford uses all of the services.

The Board asked what Henley would recommend for Carlisle. Henley provided the Board with a cost estimate of recommended services, which include: adult mosquito surveillance including 16 traps, larval mosquito control with catch basin applications and wetland surveys for a total cost of \$15,619.00.

The discussion was then opened to the audience. Katherine Fink of Daniels Lane asked how the collection of data helps to prevent disease. Henley said monitoring is helpful in determining appropriate areas to treat. The Board agreed that the town would not necessarily need to do a year of surveillance before treating for mosquitoes. Nancy Weiss of Brook Street asked whether mosquito fish were effective in reducing mosquito larvae. Henley said they are not native to this area. Fish and Wildlife would not allow non-indigenous fish to be introduced to interconnected waterways. Holland asked whether backyard foggers worked. Henley

explained that it depends on the location, area to be serviced and the wind direction. They work on the same premise as the light trap, which uses light and carbon dioxide. There are a number of limitations and the foggers might actually attract more mosquitoes to a particular area. Weiss said that this year has been the worse than any she can remember. She questioned whether it is too late to obtain funding for an effective program for next spring. Henley said the earlier the town starts, the better. Weiss suggested that homeowners should reduce breeding areas by digging out stagnant wetlands. Henley said that a homeowner would need permission from the Conservation Commission to work in the wetland, only EMMCP is exempt. Brem said that if residents want to advocate for mosquito control, they should do so at town meeting. This is a town decision not just for the Board of Health. Funding for a limited program was rejected overwhelmingly at the 2000 town meeting. Brem added that it is not necessary to fund a year of surveillance prior to actual treatment. That would be up to the town to decide. Eric Richardson of East Street said his three children were unable to play outside since the spring. With evidence of WNV in town birds and EPA's approval of Bti, there is good reason for the town to consider a mosquito control program. He asked whether a program could be privately funded. The Board said this is not an option. Weiss said Minuteman Vocational High School has an environmental science program. It might be possible to use students in collecting data.

The Board thanked Henley for his presentation, which will be shown on the local cable channel. Henley said he would be available should the Board want to discuss it further or bring the issue before the town.

There was no further discussion. Meeting voted to adjourn. At 9:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Fantasia
Recorder